

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of October 22 - October 26, 2007**

1. **Takoma Metro:** The WMATA Board met on Thursday, October 25 to vote on whether or not to approve the EYA development plan for the Takoma Metro site. The Board meeting was a particularly contentious one in that they were also discussing fare increases. On both issues, there were a number of jurisdictional sensitivities. Compounding both issues were unique rules on what combinations of votes approve or reject a motion. After a series of votes, it was decided to postpone a final vote on the Takoma Metro project two weeks, to a special Board meeting on November 8. Presumably the goal is to allow time for WMATA to address the transit and pedestrian and handicapped safety issues that have been raised. Many documents are on the City's web site, www.takomaparkmd.gov. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

2. **Special Session of Legislature:** There will be a special session of the Maryland General Assembly beginning October 29 to address the severe budget problems of the State of Maryland. The City of Takoma Park will be working with others to protect municipalities from budget cuts. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

3. **Absentee Ballots:** The City Clerk's office has begun to mail absentee ballots to registered voters who have submitted applications. Mail applications will be accepted until Wednesday, October 31. After that date, voters who need to request absentee ballots should apply in person. Contact the Clerk at 301-891-7267 for more information. (*City Clerk*)

4. **Election Judge Training:** The Board of Elections and City Clerk will conduct training for election judges on Tuesday, October 30 and Saturday, November 3. (*City Clerk*)

5. **Meetings:**

- On October 22, Chief Ricucci met with the City Council and briefed them on the recent robberies and the extra patrol on Halloween.
 - On October 23, Mary Kendall was a moderator at the MCCPTA (the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations) monthly meeting for a discussion panel about gang awareness and prevention.
 - On October 25, Chief Ricucci co-chaired the Emergency Preparedness Committee, where they discussed the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).
 - On October 25, CSAFE, in collaboration with the Prince George's County Health Department, taught the first part of a three part gang awareness/prevention educational series for parents and community members at Buck Lodge Middle School.
 - On October 26, Chief Ricucci met with Andy Keleman, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, to discuss current issues.
- (*Police*)

6. **Officers and Staff in Training:**

- On October 22-23, Nuisance Abatement Officer Roberto Rojas attended training with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Control in Rockville, Maryland.
- On October 22-26, Cpl. Smith, Pfc. Eckford, Pvt. Quante and Ms. Pullet attended training entitled "Enhanced Instructor Training" in Welcome, Maryland.
- On October 23, civilian employees attended "Ethics" training in Takoma Park, Maryland.
- On October 23 and 25, various sworn officers attended in-service training entitled "Ethics, Mental Illness/Alzheimer's Awareness, Legal Updates-Search & Seizure and CAD/MDC Training in Takoma Park, Maryland.
- On October 24, Ms. Diana Dean, Victim/Witness Services, attended training entitled "Maryland

Law Enforcement Conference Responding to and Investigating Sexual Assault" in Linthicum Heights, Maryland.

- On October 24 through 26, Pfc. Gaskin attended training entitled "Eastern Region Police Recruiters and Applicant Investigators Association 2007 Fall Conference" in Ocean City, Maryland. *(Police)*

7. **Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 43 traffic stops this week, some of which resulted in citations, and one vehicle was impounded. *(Police)*

8. **College Bound:** The Library's College Bound Speakers series concluded yesterday evening, with between 23 and 50 students and parents attending each the three sessions, which dealt with college selection, financing and the SATs. *(Library)*

9. **Return of the Wolf:** Candace Wolf returns to the Library with scary Halloween stories for children on Monday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m. Recommended for ages 8 and up. *(Library)*

10. **Summer Quest:** Final assessment of Summer Quest activity showed that 193 kids signed up for our summer reading program. Altogether, participants, who ranged from preschoolers through teens, read 974 books over the summer. *(Library)*

11. **Arts and Humanities Day:** Arts and Humanities Day - celebrated at the community center on Saturday, October 20 - was well received with participants given an opportunity to engage in a variety of activities ranging from chalk drawing outside the building to the creation of a new "Jackson Pollock" mural and Takoma Park's first "air" orchestra". Workshops on melodramatic acting, belly dancing, and creative thinking were offered. Performances by the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, the Washington National Opera, Tacky Bones, the Maru Montero Dance Company, Takoma Park's Poet Laureates, and the Takoma Academy were well received. The event was organized by the City's Recreation Department and the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. **Landlord Certification Seminar:** Seventeen landlords and agents attended the monthly landlord certification seminar held on Thursday, October 25. Certificates were issued to two agents, four new landlords and eleven landlords renewing their three year certification. Certification is required for licensing of housing rental property. The seminar covered an overall view of the City's Housing Code, licensing, landlord-tenant issues and rent stabilization. Prospective landlords, agents and realtors are encouraged to attend the seminar to learn more about the laws governing rental housing in Takoma Park. *(Housing and Community Development)*

13. **New Class - Post Purchase Home Ownership:** Have you recently purchased a house or a condo? Or maybe you purchased a while back and the increasing costs have gotten a little out of hand. This class is for you! You will learn how to manage the expenses and fees associated with your purchase. Also included will be information on foreclosure prevention. The class will be held on Wednesday, November 7, at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. To register, call 301-891-7222 or e-mail LindaW@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. **"Your Rights As A Tenant" Workshop:** The Landlord-Tenant staff conducted its 2nd class on tenants rights this past Wednesday, October 24 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Issues of concern, such as the return of security deposits, entry into a rental unit and notices to vacate were discussed. Although the next series of classes will be held in the Spring,

if you would like staff to schedule a "Your Rights as a Tenant" meeting before then for the tenants in your building, please call 301-891-7222. (*Housing and Community Development*)

15. First Time Home Buyer Workshop (conducted in Spanish) Saturday, October 26: All are welcome to attend the First Time Home Buyer Workshop, sponsored by the City of Takoma Park and the Latino Economic Community Development Corporation this Saturday, October 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Speakers will discuss the home buying process, how to choose a lender and how to improve your credit score. For further information, call 301-891-7222. (*Housing and Community Development*)

16. Old Town Carroll Avenue Coworking Business Space Open House (Ward 1): Thursday, November 1st from 4:00PM to 7:30PM, 7003 Carroll Ave will have an Open House of a new coworking facility on the second floor in Old Town, Takoma Park, MD. Refreshments will be served. See also an article featuring the space in the Washington Business Journal: <http://washington.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2007/10/22/smallb1.html?b=1193025600%5e1537030&surround=etf>. (*Housing and Community Development*)

17. Takoma Park Elementary School Addition Design Update (City-wide): Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) held the fourth community meeting in a series to develop a design schematic for the Takoma Park Elementary School (TPES) addition. The audience for these meetings are the MCPS staff, teachers, parents, neighbors and other interested parties. Thursday's meeting focused mainly on refining the interior layout of the classrooms, facilities and other programatic needs which had not been addressed at prior meetings or by the architectural staff. The new kindergarten classrooms will all be on the ground floor of the new addition. The ramps will remain in any design. There are still several program/functional needs to be added or resolved.

There were concerns expressed regarding the site from the adjacent neighborhood; MCPS invites people interested in changes to the site (as opposed to the building interior) to attend the next meeting, Monday, November 12th at 7 PM in the TPES school library. The topographic survey of the site should be completed near this date, and MCPS would like to then develop the feasibility design to a schematic design in the second half of November - community input at this juncture will be very helpful. The schematic design will be presented to the School Board in January for their approval to move onto a more refined version of the design. For more information, please contact Ray Marhamati (240) 314-1010, Project Manager MCPS. (*Housing and Community Development*)

18. Cavalier: Staff attended a briefing on Thursday afternoon with the Montgomery County Cable Office and officials from Cavalier IPTV, LLC. Cavalier is planning to offer video, telephone and broadband internet services in parts of Montgomery County, including parts of Takoma Park. Cavalier uses the Verizon owned copper infrastructure and already offers DSL and telephone service to some customers in the Washington Metropolitan region. As with other DSL providers, service availability is dependent upon distance from "wire centers". Staff are expecting an official application, with a detailed service map, to arrive in the next few business days. The County Executive will hold a Public Hearing on November 14 at 1:00 p.m. and anticipates submitting the Proposed Franchise Agreement to the County Council in mid-December for action in late February or March. Staff will provide updates as they become available. (*City TV*)

19. Snapshots of Halloween: City TV staff will be covering Halloween activities tomorrow for a Snapshots episode. (*City TV*)

20. **The Newsletter:** The November edition of the City Newsletter is now available and will be mailed later today. It is also available for viewing on the City website by clicking on the link on this page: <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/news/newsletter/index.html> (City TV)

21. **Tree Guide:** The Arborist has added a new informational feature to the City's website. The Tree Selection Guide, adapted from a publication produced by Fairfax County, lists tree species that will do well in our area. The list provides information about the tree size at maturity and preferable conditions for growth. (*Public Works*)

22. **Annual Picnic (Ward 3):** On Sunday, November 3 at 3:30 pm, the City will join the Circle Woods Community Association annual picnic to recognize and celebrate the spring water management project that is nearing completion. The project establishes a bog which will be planted with native plants and a new stream channel that daylights and controls the spring water flow. (*Public Works*)

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